



**Parks & Recreation**

**2011**

# **Softball Rules**

# CITY OF BOULDER PARKS AND RECREATION-SPORTS

## ADULT SPORTS

### OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The objectives and purposes of the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department Adult Sports Leagues shall be to foster, develop, promote and regulate amateur sports in the City of Boulder; to establish rules and regulations governing all teams participating; to engage in any activity that will be beneficial to the participants and the leagues' well-being, and to extend the sports as wholesome recreational activities.

### GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Boulder Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change any and all rules, regulations and policies whenever due cause warrants a change. When a change is made, all managers of teams affected by the change will be notified immediately.

### GENERAL POLICIES

The regulations stated under General Policies will govern all adult sport leagues: basketball, softball, volleyball, kickball and soccer.

Animals: No animals will be allowed in any sport complex.

Bottles and Kegs: No bottles or kegs are allowed at the sport complexes.

Pleasant View Soccer Complex – No alcohol is allowed.

Sportsmanship and fair play will be the hallmark of all adult sport programs.

The Rules Committee that governs all Boulder Parks and Recreation Adult Sports will be composed of the Recreation Administrator and the Program Coordinator for the respective sport.

### TEAM REGISTRATION

In the event that we receive the maximum number of team entries during registration, the following priority will be used for teams on the waiting list.

One, teams that played in the same league and classification last year or teams moving up a classification.

Two, teams that were first added to the waitlist.

Three, teams that contain the highest percentage of City of Boulder residents.

Entry Fees and deadlines vary with each sport or league; please refer to the entry fee listed under each sport. Entries must be received by the published deadline or late fees may be incurred. Teams will not be considered entered until their entry fee has been paid in full.

Dividing Teams: The Boulder Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right and authority to place teams into leagues or divisions so competitive parity can be achieved.

Limit of Team Entries: The number of team entries will be limited due to facility availability. All entries are taken on a first come, first served basis. To assure team entry, team and player fees must be paid at the time of registration as designated on the specific league information.

### ROSTERS

Each player must sign the roster/waiver form before playing to be considered an eligible player.

Teams may have as many players on its roster as desired. All rosters must be turned in either typed or printed in a neat manner. Teams may add players at any time during the season unless designated by specific league rules.

Refunds: Absolutely no entry or player fees will be refunded once the deadline has passed.

Players may play in as many leagues as they want but only one team per league. Players must sign a roster/waiver for each team they play with.

Participants must be 16 years of age in order to play in the Adult Sport Leagues.

Current varsity athletes in the particular sport from either high school or college are ineligible during "on" season

Release of Liability: It is the manager's responsibility to see that each player is aware and agrees that there are certain inherent dangers and risks involved in playing and participating in the sports of basketball, softball, volleyball, kickball and soccer. All players must realize that they may be exposed to possible injury in connection with participation in the sport. All players are to be notified that the City of Boulder, the affiliated facilities, affiliated teams, and any staff members will not be held responsible for injuries.
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## SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

1. The 2011 ASA Rulebook shall govern all league games with the exception of local league rules.
2. For the 6:00pm game, if a team does not have the minimum of 8 of players to start a game, the team with the legal number of players has the option of asking for an immediate forfeit or starting the game clock and allow the team up to 10 minutes to field enough players to play. If enough players have been located, the game will then begin in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning. Failure to field 8 players within the 10 minutes will result in a forfeit. Field Supervisor has the final decision.
3. All leagues: teams must have a minimum of 8 players to start and continue play. Failure to have 8 players at game time results in a forfeit. Teams must notify the Program Coordinator of a forfeit by 4:00p.m., on the day of the game. Lack of notification will earn the forfeiting team a \$25.00 fine, which must be paid prior to their next game. This fine may be paid at the South Boulder Rec. Center, or with credit card via phone at (303) 441-3448.
4. Time limit:  
Slowpitch      60 minutes  
Fastpitch      1 hour and 12 minutes; no new inning will begin with less than 2 minutes on the clock.
5. Complete game: A game is considered a complete game if: 7 innings have been played or the time limit has expired; or during inclement weather, if 5 or more complete innings have been played, or if the home team has scored more runs in 4 innings. **Incomplete games (those under 4 ½ innings) will start over when made up.**  
  
Run Spread Rule: Games will be considered complete if the run spread is, 20 runs after 4 innings or 15 runs after 5 innings. Note: no new inning shall begin with less than 5 minutes on the clock, this is only if the run spread is in effect. *The official has the right to call the game, if either team makes a travesty of the game to avoid the run spread rule.*  
  
Extra Inning Rule: Games tied after the time limit and any extra inning games will go to a one pitch game (except for fast pitch). Any foul ball is an out. The start of the inning begins with the last player who batted in the previous inning on 2<sup>nd</sup> base with no outs. After one extra inning and the game is still tied, the last player who batted from the previous inning will start on 3<sup>rd</sup> base. This procedure will continue for any subsequent extra innings until the winner of the game is determined.
6. **Bats: All bats allowed in City of Boulder league play MUST bear the ASA certification mark, OR, be listed on ASA's approved bat list (found at [www.asasoftball.org](http://www.asasoftball.org)).** Bats on ASA's non-approved list are NOT allowed in City of Boulder league play. As bats are tested throughout the year, bats may be declared illegal at any time. Please be sure to check the current banned bats list, often times prior certified bats are added to the banned bat list. If a player is caught using an illegal bat, at any time, they will be called out.
7. Shoes: Closed toe tennis shoes must be worn by all players. Slowpitch-Metal cleats are not allowed. Fastpitch- Metal cleats are allowed. No sandals or Crocs are allowed.
8. Coed Leagues: Teams are made up of 5 men and 5 women. Must have 2 men and 2 women in the outfield and 2 men and 2 women in the infield and opposite sex for the pitcher and catcher position.
  - A. Must have 8 players to start a game; 4 men and 4 women.
  - B. Batting order must alternate the sexes.
  - C. Teams may play with 5 men and 4 women or 4 men and 5 women. An automatic out applies when 2 men bat in order or when 2 women bat in order.
  - D. Walks: A walk to a male batter results in a two base award. The next batter, a female will bat. If there are 2 outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
  - E. STRIKE: A STRIKE WILL BE CALLED WHEN THE BALL: COED: CONTACTS ANY PART OF HOME PLATE OR THE MAT, PROVIDED THE PITCH DOES NOT EXCEED THE HEIGHT LIMIT. MEN/ WOMEN: CONTACTS ANY PART THE MAT, PROVIDED THE PITCH DOES NOT EXCEED THE HEIGHT LIMIT.
  - F. Since 2 different size balls are used for coed, it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach responsibility to switch balls with the pitcher between batters. This allows the officials to better track scored runs and monitor the field.
9. Extra Player (EP): a team may add up to 4 EP's into their line-up.
  - A. The batting order must remain constant. Any 10 players may take a defensive position during the course of the game.
  - B. EP's must be declared before the start of the game.
  - C. Coed leagues may use EP's, batting 12 or 14 players and must alternate male and female.

10. A team can finish a game with less players than they started with, provided the team fields the minimum number of 8 players. Teams are not allowed to play with 7 or less players.
11. Re-entry Rule: Any of the starting players including the EP may be substituted for and re-enter once; provided the players occupy their original position in the batting order. Non starting players may not re-enter the game.
12. All batters start with a count of 1 ball and 1 strike.
13. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike, the batter is allowed 1 foul ball. The next foul ball is an out.
14. Fastpitch:
  - A. A designated player (DP) may be used for any player provided it is made known prior to the start of the game and the player's name is on the line-up as one of the 9 hitters in the batting order.
  - B. The name of the player for whom the DP is batting will be placed in the 10<sup>th</sup> position.
  - C. The starting player listed as the DP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game. The DP and DP's substitute or the substitute's replacement may never play offense at the same time.
  - D. The DP may be substituted for at any time, either by a pinch-hitter, pinch-runner or replaced by a defensive player for whom the DP is hitting.
  - E. The DP may play defense at any position.
  - F. If the batter hits a foul ball over the fence, a member of the offensive team must collect ball and return to umpire.
15. Protests: **Protests are not allowed on judgment calls.** If protesting a game, all of the following must be completed.
  - A. Notify the umpire at the time of the protest. The following information must be recorded: inning, outs, players on base, batter, and the count on the batter.
  - B. Submit a typed protest explaining the protest and the specific rule misinterpretation and submit to the Sports Office by 5:00 pm the next working day; protest may be emailed or faxed.
  - C. The protest will be ruled on as soon as possible.
16. Forfeits
  - A. Non Appearance Forfeit: When a team fails to show up for their assigned game without notification. The team must pay a \$25.00 fee prior to participating in their next scheduled game.  
Exception: If a team has to forfeit, the team **MUST** contact the Sports Office at 303-441-3416 and the opposing team by 4:00 pm the day of the game or by 2:00 pm on Friday for games played on the weekend. If notified properly, there will be no forfeit fee charged.
  - C. If a team has 3 forfeits, that team is dropped from the league and opponents remaining games will be rescheduled.
  - D. All fines can be paid in person or by phone at the South Boulder Rec. Center
17. The field supervisor has the authority to disallow any illegal player(s) from participating.
  - A. A team may protest a player's eligibility, but must do so when the player first enters the game either on offense or defense. When the half inning ends, the right to protest ends.
  - B. Penalty for use of an ineligible player is a \$25.00 fine.
  - C. Any person playing on a team must sign the City of Boulder roster or he/she will be considered an ineligible player.
18. Tiebreaker Rule: If 2 or more teams have identical records at the end of league play, the following method will be used to determine league standings.
  - A. Fewest number of forfeits
  - B. Win percentage
  - C. Head to head
  - D. Head to head run differential
  - E. Head to head runs against
  - F. Total season runs for
  - G. Coin toss
19. Championships: The league championship will be awarded to the team who wins the final game versus the 1<sup>st</sup> seed and 2<sup>nd</sup> seed, overall record will not count in the final game. It is winner take all. For Double Header leagues the championship will be determined by the following:

Game 1: Seed 1 vs. Seed 4 @ 6PM  
 Game 2: Seed 2 vs. Seed 3 @ 6PM

Game 5: Game 1 Winner vs. Game 2 Winner @ 8PM\*- **Championship**  
 Game 6: Game 1 Loser vs. Game 2 Loser @ 8PM

Game 3: Seed 5 vs. Seed 8 @ 7PM

Game 7: Game 3 Winner vs. Game 4 Winner @ 9PM

Game 4: Seed 6 vs. Seed 7 @ 7PM

Game 8: Game 4 Loser vs. Game 3 Loser @ 9pm

\*Highest seed going into Championship game will be the home team

20. Home Run Rule

	<u>Stazio</u>	<u>East Mapleton</u>
Men's D Comp	4 Homeruns per game.	
Men's D Rec	2 Homeruns per game.	
Men's E Comp	0 Homeruns per game.	2 Homeruns per game.
Men's E Rec	0 Homeruns per game.	2 Homeruns per game.

	<u>Stazio</u>	<u>East Mapleton</u>
Coed D Comp	2 Homeruns per game.	4 Homeruns per game.
Coed D Rec	2 Homeruns per game.	4 Homeruns per game.
Coed E Comp	0 Homeruns per game.	2 Homeruns per game.
Coed E Rec	0 Homeruns per game.	2 Homeruns per game.

Women's	Unlimited	Unlimited
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A. Any player that hits a home run over the fence after their team has exceeded the designated home run limit will result in an out. The ball is dead and no runners can advance.

21. **Uniforms are strongly encouraged.** It is asked that teams dress in similar colored shirts with numbers. All players must wear a shirt and shorts or pants. Midriff baring clothes are not allowed in City of Boulder leagues.
23. Competitive Parity: The Program Coordinator has the right to place teams appropriately to preserve competitive parity.  
A: Relegation: Teams that win their league with 0 or 1 loss MUST move up a division the following season. This may only be waived if the roster changes by 5 or more players.
24. Dugouts: It is each team's responsibility to pick up after themselves after each game. All trash should be thrown away and all cans recycled. Teams that don't pick up after themselves will be warned once and then fined \$50.00. The fine must be paid before the team's next game, or the game will be a forfeit. Teams must remain inside the dugout at all times with the exception of the 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach, batter and on deck batter.
25. Each team must submit a correct team lineup to the umpire and or scorekeeper before the start of each game.
26. Within five minutes before the start of each game, the team managers must meet with the umpire to discuss rules and player conduct.
27. **The winning team manager must sign the umpire game card at the completion of each game at all fields.**
28. It is highly recommend that teams keep their own scorebook, in case of protest.
29. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the field at any time.

## SCHEDULING

- All games are scheduled by the Program Coordinator.
  - Games are not rescheduled except for adverse weather conditions or unplayable fields.
  - Games will be played if at all possible. Games may be played in weather conditions that are not ideal.
- Inclement Weather: In case of inclement weather, decisions on the status of the games will be made by 4:00 pm Monday through Friday and 2 hours prior to the first game on the weekend.
  - Be aware, games may be cancelled at anytime due to weather conditions.
  - Please note that games will often be played in inconvenient conditions, games will not be called unless field conditions are deemed unsafe.
- If and when games are postponed, the rainout line will be updated immediately.
- Rainout line: 303-441-3410, press 1.
- Rescheduling of Games
  - Make up game schedules will be completed by noon the second working day after the rain out. Once a game has been rescheduled, the make up date will not change.

- B. In case of a rain out, it is the manager's responsibility to call for the make-up game, day, time, and location at 303-441-3410, press 2. **Makeups will also be posted on the City's website, [www.bprsports.org](http://www.bprsports.org)**
  - C. If a team knows of a scheduling conflict (they play on another team, cannot play a certain night), please notify the Program Coordinator at 303-441-3416 by 10am, the day following the cancellation.
  - D. Make up games are scheduled according to field availability. The following priority system will be used:
    - 1. The same night as the teams regularly plays.
    - 2. Monday through Thursday, if available.
    - 3. Weekends.
  - E. Cancelled games may be scheduled as doubleheaders.
  - F. It is the manager's responsibility to notify team members.
6. Location of Fields:
- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Stazio Fields 1,2,3,4 | 63 <sup>rd</sup> and Arapahoe (the complex with the tent)     |
| Stazio Fields 5, 6, 7 | 63 <sup>rd</sup> and Arapahoe (the complex north of the tent) |
| East Mapleton Fields  | 30 <sup>th</sup> and Mapleton                                 |
7. Any ejected player MUST leave the City of Boulder's property/facility immediately or face further penalties.
- A. Failure to comply will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.
  - B. Penalties can include, but are not limited to fines and game suspensions.

## City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Player Code of Conduct

### Definitions

Manager - A person designated as the team spokesperson. One who is either a player or non-player

Player - A person who actively participates in the game, whether it is playing or sitting on the bench, and who is on the roster.

Spectator - A person who comes out to watch the games for entertainment with no physical involvement.

Official - A person on the field to administer the official rules.

Participation - Any involvement in the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department activities such as spectating, officiating, playing, coaching, registering for classes, or attending non-sporting events.

Recreation Activity - Any class or event sponsored by the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department.

Program Coordinator - The full-time Parks and Recreation employee designated to organize and supervise the activity.

### No player shall:

- \* At any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten an official, player, or spectator.
- \* Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
- \* Be guilty of obscene gestures, objectionable demonstrations, or dissent of an official's decision.
- \* Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game against the body and person of an opposing player.
- \* Be guilty of physical attack as an aggressor on any player, official, or spectator.
- \* Be guilty of using foul language (swearing) or abusive verbal attack upon any player, official, or spectator.
- \* Appear on the field under the influence of alcohol to the extent that he/she is inclined to cause harm to him/herself or another player.
- \* Misuse or destroy City of Boulder property or facilities.

Officials are required to suspend the player immediately from further play and report the player to the Program Coordinator.

Minimum Penalty: Removal from the game, suspension from the team's next game and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all City of Boulder recreational activities for life. Case is subject to review the following year. Police involvement.

### No player shall:

- \* Discuss with an official in any manner the decisions reached by an official. Exception: The manager may confer with the official(s) in a reasonable and civil manner.
- \* Smoke while coming off or going onto the field of play in any recreation facility.

Minimum Penalty: Warning by the official.

Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all recreational activities for one year and probation for the following year. Case is subject to review the following year. Police involvement.

1. Any player being placed on probation for the remainder of the season and reported again for the violation of Code of Conduct will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
2. Any player removed from a game must leave the field, court, or facility immediately. This includes any and all city property and any other property used by the City of Boulder for programs. Failure to do so will carry a maximum penalty of suspension for the remainder of the season.
3. Any person on probation who violates the Code of Conduct will be placed on suspension until the case can be heard by the Sports Dept staff.
4. Any person wishing to appeal a decision reached by the Sports Dept. staff should do so by calling the department at 303-441-3416 to set up an appointment to discuss the decision reached within 72 hours of the sports staff decision.
5. Any ejected player must pay appropriate fine and sit out the designated number of games prior to playing again.

**Failure to comply will result in suspension of playing, per Program Coordinator's decision.**